Angel & Me

Numismagram Newsletter #146 (IV/2025)

I feel like I was just making an announcement about a little member of our family that had recently passed away, because I did just two short months ago. Sadly, we find ourselves in the very same situation, as we had to say goodbye to another of our sweet seniors on this past Saturday, 5 April.

We adopted Angel in December 2022 along with Verity, who was the kitty that passed away this February. They were a bonded pair, and you could tell that it was very much the case. They were rarely not lying next to one another, loving each other's presence along with ours. We knew that, before adopting them, it would likely be very different for them to find a stable home, as very few are looking to adopt one senior pet, let alone two. As you may remember reading when going through this with Verity, they seemed to have a bit of a mother/daughter relationship, though their true story and actual relationship will always remain a mystery. In any event, Verity had a way of looking out for Angel that made it seem that way, as Angel was deaf and had a few neurological issues, along with having a bit of a stilted gate in her back end. This was due to some spinal compression that always was very likely longstanding, potentially even from birth. We didn't really know any of these aspects when adopting them, but it didn't matter. In the early fall of last year, Angel started becoming incontinent—likely another aspect of her advancing spinal condition, as her walking was getting a bit more challenging, though she managed. As Verity's kidney disease really started to advance rapidly toward the beginning of this year, Angel too became less and less mobile. So much so that, around the time of Verity's passing, Angel could no longer get up and stand upon her back legs. She still had feeling and could move them, but getting up and putting weight on them was a huge challenge. Nevertheless, she remained undeterred, and would use her front legs when wanting to go from point A to B. Because she was also mourning Verity and her lack of presence, we thought it all the more important for her to be around us all the time, taking her from room to room with us, and allowing her to spend all of her time with comforting company. While her incontinence required routine maintenance and cleaning, she too was unfazed, and never put up an issue to have baths and regular cleanings. Even appointments for acupuncture twice per month, in the hope of at least providing some relief, were met merely with purrs and peaceful enthusiasm.

On this prior Saturday, she had a bit of a medical event that we are still unsure of, as I left the room briefly only to discover her face down in her food bowl. I was able to wake her up, but she was dazed and had very labored breathing, along with a rapid heartrate. We were scared that we would lose her then, but she began to return to normal after a few minutes. We took her to an emergency vet, as this definitely needed to be checked out. By the time that we arrived, she was essentially back to normal. However, upon examination and an ultrasound, some stomach tumors were discovered, along with a very new heart condition and fluid in her chest cavity. While we would have fought with her to discover the extent of this, none of these issues painted anything other than a grim picture, especially given her already diminished mobility. We chose to allow her to pass peacefully and not allow anything to get worse, or to have another medical event occur and us be unable to do anything but watch. She passed in my lap, just as happy as could be. Her affect had completely returned from before the event, and she was purry and very receptive to attention. Given how familiar she was with vet offices, the fact that she was in one, and a new one at that, was not an issue, and she was unfazed by it. We know that we did what was right, but since we were just in this position so recently, it still makes it very difficult. We promised Verity that we would keep Angel safe in her absence, and we did our very best, though it also seems very fitting that they would be together again. They were simply never meant to be apart.

While announcing these things is never fun, I feel that I owe it to them, to tell their story, and to give some further attention even though they are no longer here. And though there are never easy transitions in these newsletters, it is about medals, right? So, here are some highlights from this mid-April upload.

ITALY & BRITISH EAST INDIES. Pope Leo XIII silver Medal. Issued Year XVII (1894/5). On the founding of the Papal Seminary in British India at Kandy. By Francesco Bianchi at the Rome mint. **PCGS SP-62**.

TALY. Pope Pius XI silver Medal. Issued 1927 Year VI. On the construction of the Palazzo del Governatorato in Vaticano, originally planned as the seat of the Seminario Romano Minore. By Aurelio Mistruzzi at the Rome mint.

SWITZERLAND & SPAIN. Leo Mildenberg gilt bronze Medal. Commemorating the 70th birthday of the celebrated numismatist. By Fernando Calicó Rebull.

NEW ZEALAND. "Woman" cast bronze Medal. Issued 1984. By Marian Fountain.

GREAT BRITAIN & SWEDEN. "Save Our Earth Air Water" cast bronze Medal. Issued 1990. By Berndt Helleberg for the British Art Medal Society.

NETHERLANDS. "Vrouw in Raam" cast bronze Medal. Issued 1991. "Woman in the Window". By Fons Bemelmans for the Vereniging voor Penningkunst, and cast by the Bruining foundry in Haarlem.

For all of this upload's new items, please click **here** or on the banner art below. We'll be back again around the beginning of the month for another group of museum-quality art, historical, and contemporary medals!

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